

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,

I am concerned about the lack of informative television programs to help educate myself about the candidates and where they stand on the real issues.

As a citizen who wants to be informed about the political and electoral issues that affect my life, I am greatly disappointed by the almost complete lack of informative television programming.

Local public affairs programming is virtually non-existent--constituting less than one half of 1% of all local programming. More than half of news broadcasts prior to the 2002 elections did not include a single campaign story. Our democracy is at risk when many Americans don't know basic facts about the candidates or the issues, as was the case in the 2000 elections.

Since broadcasters have clearly failed in their obligation to serve the public interest, the FCC should define meaningful public interest requirements that include local civic and electoral affairs programming.

As the elections approach, a well-functioning democracy demands that citizens have access to a diversity of opinions and voices on the choices confronting us.

Before granting further concessions to the broadcast media over their use of the public airwaves, it is long past time that they are required to actually meet their obligations to provide meaningful public interest programming.

Sincerely,

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